

Earned paid sick time is an issue that affects a significant proportion of workers and employers in Eugene, including small business owners and their employees.

Having the opportunity to earn paid sick time is clearly a benefit for workers. But offering employees this opportunity also has benefits for employers. These benefits include protecting workplace productivity, decreasing turnover and associated costs, and reducing health care costs.

Over the last year, the Main Street Alliance of Oregon has walked business districts all over Eugene. In the course of our outreach, we have surveyed 203 small business owners. These surveys were completed in person and via email.

Part of the focus of our surveying was to learn more about the current state of business in Eugene. We survey business owners on a variety of issues, from health care to immigration reform, and electoral financing to job quality issues.

When asked whether or not they currently offer paid sick leave for their employees, 66% of business owners surveyed in Eugene responded that they do not currently offer some kind of paid time off.

